

operating loan over time. I would like to point out that my bill will not guarantee acceptance of applications submitted to the FSA. Farmers would still have to go through an application process, but if the individual is eligible and accepted he or she would have the opportunity to receive adequate financing through a farm ownership or operating loan. In order to preserve the family farm and continue America's tradition of promoting the family farmer, we must provide a mechanism which enables them to receive the funds necessary for ownership and operation of a farming business.

Congress appropriates money for the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program each year. Shouldn't we put this money to its best and most efficient use? Should we also be willing to step back and take a good look at what a family farmer in 1997 really is? Of course we should use these funds as efficiently as possible and in a way that positively affects our overall economy. As for the family farmer, they still exist and are successful, but they aren't the same as they were 19 years ago in 1978 or even in 1984. Why?

Well, let's take a look at some of the changes that have occurred over this period. First of all, markets have become global. Not only do our farmers have to compete with each other, but also farmers around the world in China, Japan, Russia, Canada, Mexico just to name a few. Technology and research have both been overwhelmingly successful in allowing us to increase our production with less land, enabling us to idle environmentally sensitive land that is less productive and therefore ensure that we never revert back to the "Dust Bowl" days of the 1930's. Capital intensive is a word that was not as common in the late 1970's and early 1980's as it is today. In fact, we cannot talk about agriculture today without mentioning how the industry has drastically shifted from a labor-intensive industry to an industry dominated by capital. Twenty years ago, who could have imagined that we would be using satellites to level our land or to tell us exactly where chemical application was needed? Who could have imagined that biotechnology would yield such complex seed developments? Who could have imagined that we would have the technology to so closely monitor the growth of our animals that we would have the ability to specifically and scientifically regulate diets in order to achieve faster growth with less fat? My point, Mr. Speaker is that agriculture has changed and so has the family farmer.

The Guaranteed Loan Program was designed to help the family farmer. In order to continue this goal, we must address the needs of today by providing the capital necessary to compete and be successful. The family farmer is a larger operator relative to 1978 standards. We need cap limits that reflect this change. If we truly want to help the family farmer, let's fix a program that has historically been successful in helping this critical sector of our country. Let us not stop the progress of our farmers. We should not deny any eligible person in our Nation the opportunity to own and operate a family farm in order to pursue their idea of the American dream. This legislation will help our farmers expand their opportunities, increase our markets, improve our competitiveness, and make possible those dreams.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GUARANTEED FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS; INDEXATION TO INFLATION

Section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$300,000" and inserting "\$600,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 1998, by inflation percentage applicable to the fiscal year in which the loan is to be made or insured)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this section, the inflation percentage applicable to a fiscal year is the percentage (if any) by which (A) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as defined in section 1(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the 12-month period ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year, exceeds (B) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as so defined) for the 12-month period ending on August 31, 1996."

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GUARANTEED FARM OPERATING LOANS; INDEXATION TO INFLATION.

Section 313 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$400,000" and inserting "\$600,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 1998, by the inflation percentage applicable to the fiscal year in which the loan is to be made or insured)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this section, the inflation percentage applicable to a fiscal year is the percentage (if any) by which (A) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as defined in section 1(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the 12-month period ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year, exceeds (B) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as so defined) for the 12-month period ending on August 31, 1996."

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CHOW

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Paul Chow. Mr. Chow is being honored by the Angel Island Association for his 25-year crusade leading the preservation and restoration of the Detention Barracks at Angel Island State Park.

In addition to helping prevent the demolition of the barracks, Mr. Chow founded the Asian-American Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee to restore the barracks and protect the Asian history and poetry carved in the walls. He was also instrumental in the creation of a museum at the former Immigration Station on Angel Island.

In recognition of his accomplishments in the areas of historical, cultural and natural preservation, Mr. Chow was the recipient of the Phoenix Award, presented by the Society of American Travel Writers. He continues to volunteer his time to guide hundreds of people through the Immigration Station, relaying personal stories about the struggles of his own family during their time at the station as they became citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Paul Chow. His dedication and success to preserve a piece of history is admirable. I wish Paul and his family the best.

ROSAIRE "ROSS" RAJOTTE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Rosaire "Ross" Rajotte on a distinguished and storied dual commitment of service to both his country and the community of Northbridge, MA. Remarkably, Ross Rajotte earned four Purple Hearts during World War II. He then returned home after the war to become a leader in municipal affairs, serving three times on the board of selectman, and as its chairman once, as well as helping establish both Northbridge's conservation commission and the planning and zoning board of appeals. An activist by nature, Ross Rajotte must also be recognized for his impeccable commitment of service to his community, which has witnessed Ross attend an incredible 50 consecutive annual town meetings. Ross' genuine concern for others is truly a product of his community's similar desire to promote the public good.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD two newspaper articles about Ross Rajotte, one from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette and one from the Northbridge Times, detailing Ross Rajotte's outstanding and distinguished service.

[From the Northbridge (MA) Times, May 15, 1997]

FIFTY IN A ROW—ROSS RAJOTTE STARTED ATTENDING TOWN MEETING IN 1947—AND HASN'T MISSED AN ANNUAL SINCE

(By Rod Lee)

Standing on the Whitinsville Town Common for middle schoolers' Civil War Monument Rededication Ceremony last Thursday morning, Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte was still sky-high from having attended his fiftieth consecutive Annual Town Meeting less than forty-eight hours earlier—an unprecedented mark at least within the Blackstone Valley and possibly throughout the Commonwealth and the nation.

Rajotte had reason to rejoice: not only did two of the three articles he submitted by petition for the warrant win voter approval on the floor of the Northbridge High School auditorium last Tuesday evening, he was also singled out for praise by Town Moderator Harold D. Gould Jr. and received legislative proclamations and standing ovations from fellow residents in recognition of his remarkable achievement. He is to Northbridge Town Meeting in terms of longevity what the fabled and now-retired runner Johnny Kelley is to the Boston Marathon.

Most persons in their mid-seventies like Rajotte, or approaching that age, and a few who have even passed it, admit they cannot fathom such stalwartness.

Even Whitinsville Attorney Joseph Jundanian, who will turn eighty-two in September, shakes his head in wonder when he contemplates Rajotte's record.

"I'm not that faithful," Jundanian said. "I started attending in the 1950's, but I haven't gone to every meeting. Ross, he's a living legend."

"I'm perhaps the oldest active public official in the state of Massachusetts because I was nominated for the Northbridge Housing Authority in 1956 and am still a member. I've had cause to be at Town Meeting on most occasions. But Ross is a very active person, and deserves a great deal of credit."

Another Town Meeting "old-timer," Jerry Bagdasarian, says that compared to Rajotte,